

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 /084 W
----- 105966

P R 091400Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4299

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0023

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PFOR,SF,US,XA

SUBJ :SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPERS REPORT AMBASSADOR
HURD TO BE REPLACED

1. THIS AFTERNOON'S EDITIONS OF ARGUS CHAIN NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING JOHANNESBURG STAR, PRETORIA NEWS, AND CAPE TOWN ARGUS CARRY FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ARGUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KEN OWEN REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM AND AMBASSADOR HURD. ARTICLE READS AS FOLLOWS:

2. 'WASHINGTON--THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA, MR. JOHN HURD, IS TO BE REPLACED BY A CAREER DIPLOMAT, MR. WILLIAM BOWDLER, AS SOON AS THE FORMALITIES OF SOUTH AFRICAN AGREEMENT AND SENATE CONFIRMATION CAN BE COMPLETED, ACCORDING TO SOURCES HERE.

3. 'THE DISCLOSURE OF MR. BOWDLER'S APPOINTMENT CAME AS
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PRESIDENT FORD WAS NAMING MR. NATHANIEL DAVIS, ANOTHER CAREER

DIPLOMAT, TO REPLACE MR. DONALD EASUM AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICA.

4.' THIS CONFIRMS THE REPORTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN THE ARGUS THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, HAD DECIDED TO FIRE MR. EASUM FOR PRESSING TOO HARD AGAINST 'THE STATUS QUO' IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

5. 'DR. KISSINGER'S DECISION APPEARS, ACCORDING TO GOOD SOURCES, TO HAVE BEEN PRECIPITATED BY MR. EASUM'S COMMENTS AT PRESS CONFERENCES IN DAR ES SALAAM AND LUSAKA DURING HIS SOUTHERN AFRICAN TOUR LATE LAST YEAR. IN DAR ES SALAAM MR. EASUM SAID IT WAS NOT AMERICAN POLICY TO PRESERVE THE STATUS QUO IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND IN LUSAKA HE INDICATED THAT THE U.S. MIGHT REVERSE ITS VETO OF SOUTH AFRICA'S EXPULSION FROM THE UN.

6.' BOTH THESE COMMENTS WENT BEYOND THE AMERICAN POSITIONS AS STATED IN WASHINGTON AND MR. EASUM LATER TRIED IN AN INTERVIEW TO RETREAT FROM HIS LUSAKA COMMENTS BY BLAMING THE INACCURACY OF PRESS REPORTS, EVEN THOUGH THESE PRESS REPORTS COINCIDED WITH OFFICIAL CABLES.

7.' AS PART OF THE SHAKE-UP, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA, MR. JOHN REINHARDT, WILL BECOME THE FIRST NEGRO ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, TAKING OVER THE INFORMATION SECTION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

8.' THE NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICA, MR. DAVIS, AND THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA, MR. BOWDLER, ARE BOTH LATIN AMERICAN SPECIALISTS. THIS ACCORDS TO DR. KISSINGER'S BELIEF IN TRANSFERRING SPECIALISTS OUTSIDE THE AREAS OF THEIR EXPERTISE BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THEY EVENTUALLY END UP REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF THEIR FAVORITE FOREIGN COUNTRIES RATHER THAN OF THE U.S.

9.' MR. DAVIS, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED, MAY HAVE A HARD TIME AT CONFIRMATION HEARINGS BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE BECAUSE HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO CHILE DURING THE PERIOD THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WAS TRYING TO
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OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF SALVADOR ALLENDE.

10.' ALLENDE WAS EVENTUALLY KILLED IN A RIGHT-WING COUP.'

HURD

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